Parade 12/7/75

Q. *So many people in the American intelligence community keep talking about "The Family Jewels." What are they, and who owns them?—F. L., Lexington, Ky.*

A. On May 9, 1973, James Schlesinger, then director of the CIA, distributed a memo asking past and present members of the agency to "report to me immediately on any activities now going on, or that may have gone on in the past, which might be construed to be outside the legislative charter of the agency."

Within two weeks Schlesinger received almost 700 pages of information which were turned over to the CIA's Inspector General's Office. There a secret report on the CIA's alleged illegalities was compiled. That ultrasecret report in time was referred to as "The Family Jewels." On July 12, 1973, James Schlesinger was sworn in as Secretary of Defense, leaving his successor, poor Bill Colby, holding the bag of "Family Jewels." Before Gerald Ford fired him, Colby spent days trying to explain the CIA sins Schlesinger had uncovered.